

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the specification of the instant application with the enclosed substitute specification, which is submitted in both clean and marked-up versions. Support for the amendments to the specification may be found in the specification as originally filed or in the specification to International Patent Application PCT/FR99/00843, from which the instant application claims priority as a United States national stage application. Applicants assert that the substitute specification does not include new matter.

Attachment: Substitute specification – Clean version (52 pages)

Substitute specification – Marked-up version (53 pages)